

I claim:

506017 1. A vacuum processing apparatus for processing at least one workpiece, comprising a chamber with[:] at least two openings defining respective opening areas [for one of treating and handling said at least one workpiece thereat]; and a transport device[, comprising] having a drive shaft rotatable around a rotational axis of said drive shaft; at least two conveyors [arranged at said transport device] for at least one workpiece each[, said transport device comprising], and a transport arm for each conveyor [projecting from] operatively associated with said drive shaft; said arms being operatively coupled to said conveyors to move said conveyors independently of each other relative to said drive shaft.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, said openings defining an opening area each, with normals on said opening areas being warped with respect to said rotational axis.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said conveyors are movable at least one of parallel to said drive shaft and of normally with respect to said drive shaft.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said conveyors, once positioned adjacent one of said openings by rotation of said transport device, are movable towards and from said opening in a normal direction of said opening areas.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein rotation of said transport device around said rotational axis substantially define a cone shaped trajectory surface with a cone opening angle with respect to said rotational axis of not more than 90°.

6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein each of said openings defines an opening area, with normals on said opening areas pointing in a direction of respective generatrix of said cone-shaped trajectory surface.

16. A vacuum chamber for processing at least one workpiece, comprising at least two openings defining respective opening areas [for treating or handling said at least one workpiece thereat]; a transport device with a drive shaft for rotating said transport device around a rotational axis of said drive shaft; at least two conveyors [arranged at said transport device for the workpiece thereat, said transport device further comprising], and a transport arm for each conveyor [projecting from] operatively associated with said drive shaft[; said arms] and each being operatively coupled to one of said conveyors to move said conveyors independently of each other relative to said drive shaft.

Slog HP

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SubD5

Sub 77

31. A vacuum chamber with at least two openings and a workpiece transport arrangement with which at least one workpiece within the chamber is selectively brought into a position adjacent to one of said openings, whereby the transport arrangement is provided within the chamber rotatably around a rotational axis and carries at least two members for holding a workpiece each, a rotation drive is provided

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~~33. A vacuum chamber
with at least two openings
and a workpiece transport
arrangement with which at~~

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34. A method of processing at least one workpiece, comprising the steps of rotating a transport device member around a rotational axis to bring the at least one workpiece adjacent an opening in a vacuum chamber having at least two openings, and moving at least two conveyors with at least one movement component radial relative to said rotational axis, independently of each other relative to the transport device member so as

selectively to move the at
least one workpiece towards
and away from the adjacent
opening.

add D97

ADD F3

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